Allentown firm to renovate BFHS

Board members of the Carbondale Housing Authority have selected Cardinal Construction of Allentown as the contractor for the $2,441,237 renovation of the former Benjamin Franklin High School into a 45-unit apartment building for the elderly and handicapped. Cardinal Construction's bid was $2,118,000. Board members are John Malone, Jean Fry, Anthony Malloy, Bernard Lapera and Vivian Kohut.

The project will be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and on Friday, March 11, Ruddy personally delivered Cardinal Construction's bid package to HUD's Philadelphia office. Joseph Kohut, CHA management aide, told the NEWS that officials at the Philadelphia HUD office will announce whether or not Cardinal's package is acceptable within the next 30 to 60 days.

In addition to Cardinal's bid, other bidders were: D&R Development Corporation, Allentown, $1,855,380; Pace Company, Scranton, $2,150,900; Raymond Development Company, Scranton, $1,939,918; Mastrianni Development, Dunmore, $2,220,000; Federal Development Inc., Scranton, $1,950,200; and The Muncy Corporation, Scranton, $2,269,840.

Kohut explained that price alone did not determine the board's decision in selecting Cardinal's bid, but was one of a number of factors, including design and construction plans, energy usage, roofing, green areas, site layout, security, safety and building efficiency, and the developer's experience with similar projects. In arriving at their decision, the board awarded points ranging from 0 to 15 in evaluating each factor in each bid.

Kohut noted that the CHA hopes to see construction begin by June 1. The building will feature an elevator, laundry and community rooms, outdoor sitting areas and a parking lot. Apartment rentals will amount to 30 percent of a tenant's income.